

Message Text

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71

ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 LAB-06 RSC-01 /020 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:JELEADER

8-3-73 EXT. 20353

APPROVED BY NEA/INS:LBLAINGEN

NEA/RA:SHGLAZER (SUBSTANCE)

NEA/INR:EWGNEHN

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R 032114Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

UNCLAS STATE 153402

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CE, ELAB

SUBJECT: DEATH OF WILFRED PERERA

REF: COLOMBO 1953

1. DEPARTMENT HAS INFORMED GLEN WATTS, GENERAL SECRETARY, COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA AND HARRY GOLDBURG, INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT AFL-CIO OF PERERA'S DEATH.

2. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO CONVEY FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM FSO JAMES LEADER TO UPALI JAYASEKERA, GENERAL SECRETARY, UPTO.

3. BEGIN QUOTE: DEAR UPALI: I WAS GRIEVED TO LEARN OF WILFRED PERERA'S PASSING. PLEASE CONVEY TO THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE UPTO AND TO MRS. PERERA AND CHILDREN MY DEEPEST SYMPATHY AND CONDOLENCES.

4. I KNOW WILFRED'S LEADERSHIP, INTEGRITY AND DEVOTION TO SOCIAL JUSTICE WILL BE SORELY MISSED BY THE UPTO, BY THE CEYLON WORKING CLASS AND BY HIS COUNTRYMEN. THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION MOVEMENT IN WHICH HE PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE WILL SHARE YOUR GRIEF AND SENSE OF LOSS. HE NOW PASSES FROM HIS ROLE AS HISTORY-MAKER INTO HISTORY ITSELF.

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4. FOR ME, I HAVE LOST A GOOD FRIEND WHOM I ADMIRER AND
RESPECTED. I WAS SORRY THAT I COULD NOT PHYSICALLY JOIN
YOU TO PAY HOMAGE TO WILFRED BUT I WAS WITH YOU IN SPIRIT.
I KEEP WITH ME THE HAPPY MEMORIES OF MANY HOURS SPENT
WITH WILFRED IN WHICH HE CONVEYED TO ME BOTH HIS WISDOM
ON CEYLONERSE LABOR AFFAIRS AND HIS LOVE OF JUSTICE.
SINCERELY, JIM LEADER, SRI LANKA COUNTRY OFFICER, US
DEPARTMENT OF STATE. END QUOTE. ROGERS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE153402
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JELEADER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730858/aaaabqpg.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 COLOMBO 1953
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10-Jan-2002 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <13 FEB 2002 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEATH OF WILFRED PERERA
TAGS: ELAB, CE
To: COLOMBO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005